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FROM: DDI/O/CPAS.

BODY SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST AREA BRIEF OCPAS MEA 90/194 FOR 20 AUGUST 1990.

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5. LIBERIA: TRUCE BETWEEN DOE AND JOHNSON (b)(3)

PRESIDENT DOE AND PRINCE JOHNSON AGREED TO A TRUCE ON SATURDAY, FOLLOWED BY A DAYLONG CELEBRATION, INCLUDING LOOTING, BY TROOPS ON BOTH SIDES. A CEASE-FIRE ACCORD DRAFTED BY THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES WAS CIRCULATED TO DOE AND JOHNSON THIS WEEKEND AND POSSIBLY TO CHARLES TAYLOR. TAYLOR IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH MEMBERS OF THE ECOWAS MEDIATION COMMITTEE AND THE PEACEKEEPING FORCE COMMANDER IN BANJUL, THE GAMBIA, TODAY TO DISCUSS THE FORCE'S ARRIVAL IN MONROVIA. MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNMENT RELEASED TO THE US (b)(1)
EMBASSY ONE UNHARMED US CITIZEN AND THE BODY OF THE US MISSIONARY (b)(3)
WHO DIED IN CUSTODY AFTER BEING SHOT BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS LAST WEEK.
AT CHECKPOINTS IN MONROVIA THE GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO SINGLE OUT AMERICANS TRYING TO PASS THROUGH.

(b)(3)

COMMENT: THE TRUCE BETWEEN DOE AND JOHNSON MAY NOW PUT PRESSURE ON TAYLOR TO ACCEPT THE ECOWAS PEACEKEEPERS, EVEN THOUGH TAYLOR HAS MISGIVINGS THAT THE REGIONAL TROOPS WILL BE BIASED AGAINST HIS FORCES. DESPITE THE CEASE-FIRE, HOWEVER, DOE'S SUSPICIONS OF US INTENTIONS AND THE LACK OF DISCIPLINE BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS INCREASINGLY THREATEN AMERICANS. (b)(3)

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